

Census 2011 Briefing –Households

A household is: • one person living alone; or • a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area Inclusions: • Sheltered accommodation units in an establishment where 50 per cent or more have their own kitchens should be defined as households (irrespective of whether there are other communal facilities) • All people living in caravans on any type of site that is their usual residence should be treated as households. This will include anyone who has no other usual residence elsewhere in the UK.

- The 2011 census recorded the population of Maidstone to be 155,143. Of these 152,445 (98.3%) are living in households. This is marginally higher than the England average of 98.2% and the South East average of 97.8%. In Maidstone there are 2,698 residents in communal establishments or 1.7% of all population. This again is marginally lower than the all England average of 1.8% and 0.5% lower than the South East average of 1.8%. Maidstone has the 6th lowest percentage of people living in communal establishments in Kent.

	Household Residents	Communal Establishment Residents
Ashford	99.2%	0.8%
Canterbury	94.3%	5.7%
Dartford	99.0%	1.0%
Dover	98.0%	2.0%
Gravesham	99.3%	0.7%
Maidstone	98.3%	1.7%
Sevenoaks	98.9%	1.1%
Shepway	98.3%	1.7%
Swale	98.2%	1.8%
Thanet	98.2%	1.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	98.8%	1.2%
Tunbridge Wells	97.9%	2.1%
KCC Area	98.1%	1.9%

- Overall in Kent, Gravesham has the highest percentage of household residents in Kent at 99.3% and the lowest in communal establishments at 0.7% (744). Canterbury has the lowest population in households with 94.3% and therefore the highest population in communal establishments with 5.7% (8,583) however it is likely that the large student population in Canterbury accounts for the majority of this group.
- When comparing the 2001 and 2011 census figures it is clear that the number of people living in communal establishments in Kent has increased with 27,390 in 2001 raising to 27,995 in 2011, however proportionally (due to the population change) the percentage of people living in communal establishments has fallen from 2.1% in 2001 to 1.9% in 2011. However, on a district level there is much variation.
- Four districts saw a rise in the number of residents in communal establishments including Maidstone who had the second highest increase in Kent of 29.3%, Canterbury had the highest with a 51.4% increase.

Population Change in Communal Establishments	2001	2011	Change	% Point Change
Ashford	1,414 (1.4%)	963 (0.8%)	-451 (-31.9%)	-0.6
Canterbury	5,669 (4.2%)	8,583 (5.7%)	2,914 (51.45%)	1.5
Dartford	1,320 (1.5%)	989 (1.0%)	-331 (-25.1%)	-0.5
Dover	2,918 (2.8%)	2,212 (2.0%)	-709 (-24.2%)	-0.8
Gravesham	744 (0.8%)	744 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0
Maidstone	2,087 (1.5%)	2,698 (1.7%)	611 (29.3%)	0.2
Sevenoaks	1,362 (1.2%)	1,271 (1.1%)	-91 (-6.7%)	-0.1
Shepway	1,196 (2.3%)	1,818 (1.7%)	-378 (-17.2%)	-0.6
Swale	2,398 (2.0%)	2,455 (1.8%)	57 (2.4%)	-0.1
Thanet	3,218 (2.5%)	2,431 (1.8%)	-787 (24.5%)	-0.7
Tonbridge & Malling	1,336 (1.2%)	1,404 (1.2%)	68 (5.1%)	-0.1
Tunbridge Wells	2,762 (2.7%)	2,427 (2.1%)	-335 (-12.1%)	-0.5
KCC Area	27,390 (2.1%)	27,995 (1.9%)	605 (2.2%)	-0.1

- Now that the number of household residents has been released, along with the count of number of households with at least one usual resident, the average household size can be calculated.
- The average size of a household in the KCC area is 2.37 people per household according to the 2011 Census estimates. However, there is great variation across the county. For example, the largest average household size is 2.50 people per household in Gravesham Borough. The smallest average household size is 2.21 people per household in Thanet.
- The average size of a private household in the KCC area has fallen slightly between 2001 and 2011. In 2001 the average size was 2.38 people per household but by 2011 the average size had fallen to 2.37 people per household. This follows the assumption that average household size is generally in decline. However, the level of decline has not been as great as predicted. The latest Government household projections (2008-based household projections, Department for Communities and Local Government) projected the average household size for Kent to have fallen to 2.31 by 2011 which has not been the case.

- Despite the expectation that household size would decrease this has not been the case for a third of the Kent districts, namely Canterbury, Gravesham, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford. This could be due to children staying at home for longer or extended family moving in for economic reasons e.g. the ability to get a mortgage or rising care costs.
- The remaining Kent districts saw a decrease in average household size with the exception of Dartford where there was no change.

Average Household Size	2001	2011	Change
Ashford	2.44	2.45	0.01
Canterbury	2.33	2.34	0.02
Dartford	2.40	2.40	0.00
Dover	2.29	2.27	-0.02
Gravesham	2.48	2.5	0.02
Maidstone	2.42	2.40	-0.02
Sevenoaks	2.43	2.42	-0.01
Shepway	2.29	2.24	-0.05
Swale	2.44	2.40	-0.04
Thanet	2.24	2.21	-0.03
Tonbridge & Malling	2.49	2.48	-0.01
Tunbridge Wells	2.37	2.39	0.02
KCC Area	2.38	2.37	-0.01